

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-07

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R 181413Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (BELLMON, HENRY)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SENATOR BELLMON

REF:(A) NEDELHI 7241; (B) DACCA 2494; (C) CALCUTTA 1165

1. DURING BRIEFING BY AID AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS MAY 10, SENATOR BELLMON INDICATED THAT MAIN AREAS ON WHICH HE WISHES TO FOCUS DURING HIS SOUTH ASIA VISIT ARE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY PLANNING. HE IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN IMPACT OF USG PROGRAMS THROUGH AID AND PL 480 (OR INDIRECTLY, IN THE CASE OF INDIA, THROUGH MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS) ON INDIAN AND BANGLADESH EFFORTS IN THESE AREAS. HE EMPHASIZED HIS INTEREST, INsofar AS TIME PERMITS, IN SEEING A FULLY REPRESENTATIVE SLICE OF LIFE ON THE SUBCONTINENT, WITH THE BAD THROWN IN ALONG WITH THE GOOD. WE ASSURED HIM THAT THE EMBASSIES WOULD ARRANGE HIS SCHEDULE WITH THIS IN MIND.

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2. SENATOR BELLMON, WHO WILL ARRIVE IN NEW DELHI AT 0145 HRS. ON MAY 31 WITH MRS. BELLMON AND FAMILY FRIENDS MR. AND MRS. RICHARD HEATH WISHES TO GO AHEAD WITH THE CALCUTTA/BANGLADESH SEGMENT OF HIS TRIP. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS AS TO WHETHER THE FOLLOWING ITINERARY, OR SOMETHING CLOSE TO IT, WOULD BE FEASIBLE:

FRIDAY, JUNE 4: ARRIVE CALCUTTA ON IC-401 AT 0810 HRS. MRS. BELLMON AND THE HEATHS WOULD REMAIN IN CALCUTTA. THE SENATOR WOULD DEPART FROM THE AIRPORT FOR JESSORE. LUNCH AND SOME ACTIVITIES COULD BE ARRANGED FOR THE JESSORE AREA, AND SENATOR BELLMON WOULD THEN FLY TO DACCA ON BG-468 WHICH LEAVES JESSORE AT 1500 HRS. DINNER COULD BE PLANNED WITH GUEST LIST KEYED TO THE SENATOR'S INTERESTS (PARA 1, ABOVE).

SATURDAY, JUNE 5: LEAVE DACCA FOR CALCUTTA ON BG-491 AT 1000 HRS. DURING REMAINDER OF DAY, SENATOR WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SOME OF CALCUTTA SO AS TO GET IMPRESSION OF PROBLEMS AS WELL AS EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS. HEAVY ROUND OF OFFICIAL CALLS WOULD NOT FIT INTO THE SENATOR'S BRIEF CALCUTTA SCHEDULE, ALTHOUGH AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS MIGHT BE IN ORDER DURING TOUR OF CITY. THE BELLMONS AND HEATHS PLAN TO LEAVE FOR BANGKOK ON AI-308 AT 2025 HRS.

3. FOR DACCA: RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING MADE THROUGH PANAM IN WASHINGTON FOR BG-468 JESSORE-DACCA AND FOR THE DACCA-CALCUTTA LEG. HOWEVER, THERE IS SOME CONFUSION ABOUT THE LATTER. A RESERVATION HAS BEEN MADE HERE ON BG-493 LEAVING DACCA AT 1300 HRS., BUT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A CHANGE IN SCHEDULE AND THIS MAY NOW BE BG-491 LEAVING AT 1000 HRS. PLEASE CLARIFY AND MAKE/RECONFIRM NECESSARY RESERVATIONS. KISSINGER

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